

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *461
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 05.04.2023

STEPS TO REGULATE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

***461: SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV:**

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking steps to regulate the growth of artificial intelligence in the country;
- (a) if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government intends to bring a law on artificial intelligence and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to develop infrastructure, expertise, skilling and research in artificial intelligence?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
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REGARDING STEPS TO REGULATE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

(a) to (c): AI is a kinetic enabler of the digital economy and innovation ecosystem. Government is harnessing the potential of AI to provide personalized and interactive citizen-centric services through Digital Public Platforms. However, AI has ethical concerns and risks due to issues such as bias and discrimination in decision-making, privacy violations, lack of transparency in AI systems, and questions about responsibility for harm caused by it. These concerns have been highlighted in the National Strategy for AI (NSAI) released in June, 2018. To address the ethical concerns and potential risks associated with AI, various central and state government departments and agencies have commenced efforts to standardize responsible AI development, use and promote the adoption of best practices. Additionally, NITI Aayog has published a series of papers on the subject of Responsible AI for All. However, the government is not considering bringing a law or regulating the growth of artificial intelligence in the country.

(d): Government of India sees Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a significant and strategic area for the country and technology sector. It further believes that AI will have kinetic effect for the growth of entrepreneurship & business and Government is taking all necessary steps in policies and infrastructure to develop a robust AI sector in the country.

The following are the details:

- i. Government has published the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in June 2018 and proposes to develop an ecosystem for the research and adoption of Artificial Intelligence i.e. #AI for ALL.
- ii. With the vision to make India a global leader in AI space and to ensure responsible and transformational use of AI for All, MeitY has undertaken the implementation of the “National Program on Artificial Intelligence”. The program aims to establish a comprehensive program for leveraging transformative technologies to foster inclusion, innovation, and adoption for social impact.
- iii. MeitY has established Centres of Excellence in various emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence to explore opportunities in these specialized fields. These centres provide start-ups with premium plug-and-play co-working spaces and access to the ecosystem.
- iv. MeitY has launched the "National AI Portal" (<https://indiaai.gov.in/>) which serves as a comprehensive repository of Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives in the country. The portal acts as a single point of reference for individuals, researchers, and industry professionals seeking information about AI initiatives in India, including academic research, startups, policy initiatives, and other related information.
- v. India is a founding member of Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), having joined the multi-stakeholder initiative on June 15, 2020. India has won more than two-thirds of first preference votes and has been entrusted with the responsibility of incoming council chair of the GPAI in November 2022. GPAI is an international and multi-stakeholder initiative to guide the responsible development and use of AI, grounded in human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation, and economic growth.
- vi. **Research:** Department of Science & Technology is implementing the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to promote R&D, Human Resource Development (HRD), Technology Development, Entrepreneurship Development, International Collaboration etc. As part of this Mission 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) in advanced technologies have been established in reputed institutes across the country. The TIHs at IIT Kharagpur, IIIT Hyderabad and IIT BHU are working towards Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.
- vii. **Expertise & Skilling:**

1. MeitY has initiated 'Future Skills PRIME' a programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability in 10 new/emerging technologies. These include AI, Blockchain, Robotics, Big Data & Analytics, IoT, Virtual Reality, Cyber security, Cloud Computing, 3D Printing and Web 3.0.
2. Government has initiated 'Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme' with the objective to enhance the number of PhDs in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors including AI and Emerging Technologies.
3. Government has launched Responsible AI for Youth 2022, on July 30, 2022. The Programme was designed to reach out to students from Government schools on pan India basis and provide them with an opportunity to become part of the skilled workforce in an inclusive manner. The programme impacted 52,628 students across 35 States and UTs, empowering youth with necessary AI skill sets, who had limited or no access to the latest technologies and resources.
4. National e-Governance Division (NeGD), MeitY in collaboration with its partners, has launched 'YUVAi: Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI' - A National Programme for School Students with the objective of enabling school students from classes 8th to 12th with AI tech and social skills in an inclusive manner. The programme will provide a platform for youth to learn and apply AI skills in 8 thematic areas- Krishi, Aarogya, Shiksha, Paryavaran, Parivahan, Grameen Vikas, Smart Cities and Vidhi aur Nyaay.

viii. Infrastructure:

1. MeitY along with CDAC has also initiated a Proof-of-Concept (PoC) project on AIRAWAT (AI Research, Analytics and Knowledge Dissemination Platform) for providing a common compute platform for AI research and knowledge assimilation. This AI Computing infrastructure will be used by all Technology innovation hubs, Research Labs, Scientific Communities, Industry, and Start-Ups institutions with National Knowledge Network. The PoC for AIRAWAT is developed with 200 petaflops Mix Precision AI Machine which will be scalable to a peak compute of One AI Exaflop.
2. NIC has setup a Centre of Excellence in AI which is involved in facilitating AI as a Service through on Meghraj cloud with 7 AI PFlops super compute facility created at Delhi and 5 AI PFlop in Kolkata.

ix. Data Management:

1. Data is the key input for any AI based system. Considering this, Government has developed an Open Government data Platform (OGD). Currently, 601,059 data resources from various central & state departments are available on OGD platform.
2. MeitY has completed the public consultation of Draft National Data Governance Policy. This policy seeks to enhance access, quality, and use of data in line with emerging technology needs. The policy aims to ensure that non-personal and anonymized datasets from both Government and Private entities are safely accessible by start-ups and academia to unleash innovation and research. It provides an institutional framework for governing data access and use, streamlining inter-government data access, ensuring compliance with data quality & metadata standards, and formulating anonymization guidelines.
